

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 L-03

H-01 IO-13 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3320

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USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA, IPS/PL, IBS/PL

E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: MONTEVIDEO 752-C AND 770

1. NATIONALISTIC PRO-MILITARY LA MANANA MONDAY PUBLISHED THE FIRST CRITICAL EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ABOUT CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, APPARENTLY IN REACTION TO THE FEBRUARY 24 STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TO THE SENATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE IN WHICH URUGUAY WAS NAMED AS ONE OF THREE COUNTRIES WHERE U.S. AID WILL BE CUT BACK BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS. NEWS OF THE VANCE STATEMENT, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED IN URUGUAY EXCEPT THOSE FOREIGN PAPERS FREELY CIRCULATED HERE AND THE GOU SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED THE PUBLICATION OF THE IPS WIRELESS FILE STORY (ARF-79 OF 2/24) WHICH HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE LOCAL PRESS.

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2. INTERESTINGLY, LA MANANA NOW SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY PRESS OUTLET REMAINING OPEN TO GOU AUTHORITIES FOR CONVEYING POLICY MATTERS EDITORIALY SINCE THE FORMERLY PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPER, EL PAIS, EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS WITH THE MILITARY AND DARINGLY STRUCK BACK AT THE GOU WITH A SERIES OF EDITORIALS ON THE ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM. THE INDEPENDENT EL DIA HAS A LONG TRADITION OF SPEAKING OUT

EDITORIAL ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS MATTERS.

3. UNDER THE HEADING, "HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE TRAJECTORY OF URUGUAY," LA MANANA EMPHASIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STATEMENT: "WORDS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT ACTIONS ARE BASIC" MADE BY ROBERT E. WHITE, HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE RECENT CIECC CONFERENCE IN MONTEVIDEO.

4. THE PAPER THEN STATED IT (WILL) "LET MORE COMPETENT ANALYSTS DISCOVER THE TRUE MEANING OF THESE WORDS, INCLUDING THE DISCOVERY OF SOME VEILED THREAT OR SOME UNFEIGNED PRESSURE OR SOME SUBSTANTIAL RESERVATION OR SOME CLEAR CONDITION, ALL OF IT RELATED TO THE GRANTING OF U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT (FOR THE CIECC) WHICH IS BEING REVIEWED AND, ACCORDING TO WHITE, WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE OAS BEFORE APRIL 30."

5. TAKING A HARD LINE ON THE ISSUE, LA MANANA GOES ON TO SAY, "ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ARE INTERESTED IN EMPHASIZING THAT AS FAR AS URUGUAY IS CONCERNED, WORDS ARE IMPORTANT, MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACTIONS.

6. "IN THIS REGARD, SPECIFICALLY, URUGUAY SHOULD NOT TAKE LESSONS FROM ANYONE.."

7. THE EDITORIAL WENT ON AT LENGTH TO CITE MANY HISTORICAL POINTS IN WHICH URUGUAY HAS BEEN A LEADER IN SOCIAL LEGISLATION, CLAIMING THAT URUGUAY WAS HAD IN MANY AREAS A BETTER HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN THE UNITED STATES. THE PAPER EVEN ADMITTED THAT "NECESSARILY SOME RIGHTS HAD TO BE LIMITED OR SUSPENDED, BUT NEVER IN A DEFINITIVE WAY NOR AS THE OBJECT OF A STRUGGLE NOR AS THE OCCULT OR MANIFEST INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES..."

8. LA MANANA THEN MAKES THE OBSERVATION THAT "IF THESE WERE TRANSGRESSIONS OR ABUSES, OR IF SOMEONE INDIVIDUALLY COMMITTED SOME EXCESSIVE (ACT) IN RESPONSE TO OTHER EXCESSES, NOBODY CAN COMPROMISE THE POSITION OF THE ARMED FORCES, (WHICH HAS BEEN) EXPRESSED REPEATEDLY IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.."

9. THE PAPER THEN STATES, INTERESTINGLY, THAT "THE COUNTRY SOON WILL RETURN TO BE WHAT IT SHOULD BE. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING BRAVELY FOR THIS TO OCCUR, IN THE MIDST OF THE STRUGGLE, WILL L UP EITHER THEIR SACRIFICES OR THEIR EFFORTS.."

10. IN CONCLUSION, LA MANANA STATES: "IF WE HAVE TO FIGHT ONLY AGAINST THE AGGRESSION OF THE ENEMIES OF THE FREE WORLD, BUT ALSO AGAINST THE INCOMPREHENSION OF THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES OUR

FRIENDS, NEITHER WILL THIS BE A NEW EXPERIENCE IN THE HISTORY
OF OUR COUNTRY. ALWAYS AND ABOVE ALL WE MUST KNOW HOW TO FULFILL
OUR DUTY AND REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR CONVICTIONS, NO MATTER WHAT
OTHER PEOPLE SAY."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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